Percentage of Sucrose in Sugar

3163. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sucrose percentage in sugar has been determined by the Bureau of Indian Standard;

(b) whether the determined standards is compatable with the International Standard;

(c) whether Government have instituted any checks on determining the sucrose in the sugar produced in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards have prepared standard specification No. IS: 5982: 1970 for direct consumption plantation white sugar. The minimum POL percent for this type of sugar has been specified at 99.5 per cent. Scientifically, POL or polarisation is the net result of all Dextro and Laevo-Rotatory substances, i.e., sucrose, fructose, reffinose, glucose, etc.

(b) The Codex Stan-4-1981 (World Wide Standard) issued by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)/World Health Organisation (WHO) prescribes standards for white sugar A and B. The Indian Standards for direct consumption plantation white sugar is compatable with the Codex Specification for white sugar of Grade B.

(c) Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 prescribes minimum sucrose content of 98 per cent for plantation white sugar produced/commonly used in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Enhancement of Quota of Foodgrains to Gujarat

3164. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for the enhancement of quota of foodgrains to the State of Gujarat due to increase in population of the State according to the 1991-census;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) No proposal is under consideration of Government to increase monthly quota of foodgrains of Gujarat for Public Distribution System on the basis of increase in population according to 1991 census. Allocations of Foodgrains to State|UTs for PDS/RPDS are made on a month to month basis after taking into account stocks in the Central Pool, demands received from State/UTs, their relative needs, offtake trend and seasonal availability etc.

However, on a request made by Government of Gujarat, the monthly wheat quota of the State for PDS has been enhanced from 53,500 MT to 75000 MT for a period of four months from May, 1995.

Accumulation of Wheat and Rice in FCI Godowns

3165. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of wheat and rice accumulating in the FCI godowns under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to reduce the prices of food stuffs in the public distribution system, to help the consumers particularly the vulnerable among the ration card holders; and

(d) if not, the reasons and justification to allow concessional delivery of wheat and rice from the FCI stocks to the bread manufacturers, flour mills etc.?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, please. Favourable monsoons for the last few years and consequent very good production of foodgrains resulted in increased level of procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool and therefore, FCI's stock position of foodgrains (wheat & rice) is quite comfortable.

(c) and (d) The Central Issue Prices (CIP) of wheat and rice for Public Distribution System (PDS) and revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) have not been revised after 1st Feb. '94, though increases have become due consequent to the increases in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of wheat and paddy. The foodgrains are supplied to State/UTs for RPDS areas from Central Pool at Rs. 50 per quintal less than the CIP for PDS. Thus, the Government has to bear a heavy burden in the shape of food subsidy.

In the interest of consumers, the Modern Food Industries India Ltd. (MFIL) has been allocated 1.87 lakh tonnes of wheat for a period of 1 year from October '94 at Rs. 1,000/- per metric tonne less than the Central Issue Price for PDS, comprising 1.50 lakh tonnes for bread manufacturing subject to reduction in the prices of bread and 0.37 lakh tonnes for production of energy foods subject to keeping the prices of energy foods frozen during the period of supply of wheat at concessional rate. The MFIL has reduced its price of bread by 25 paise for a 400 gm. loaf and 50 paise for a 8200 gm. loaf in its Delhi and Bombay units. It has also reduced the price of bread by 50 paise for a 400 gm. loaf and one rupee for 800 gm. loaf at its remaining units in the country. The franchised units of the MFIL have also been allocated 2358 MT of wheat per month at the above concessional rate with the condition that these units would also reduce the price of their bread in line with the price reduction effected by MFIL. Besides issue of wheat to MFIL at concessional rate, in the interest of the students belonging to weaker sections viz. SC|ST|OBC, 1.68 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated from Central Pool for issue to the States/UTs for SC|ST|OBC hostels having atleast 2|3rd inmates belonging to these communities at RPDS rates throughout the country. The total requirement of foodgrains for this scheme has been estimated at 2.24 lakh tonnes for 1995-96 tentatively.

The Government have also decided to supply 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (rice and wheat) per annum for a period of 5 years for employment generation by manufacturing food products such as bread, buns, papar etc. by below poverty line families at a concessional rate of Rs. 1,000/- per tonne less than the CIP for PDS. Out of this quantity, 3.5 lakh tonnes per annum has been earmarked for rural areas and the balance 1.5 lakh tonnes for urban areas.

Storage Facilities for Foodgrains in Gujarat

3166. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the storage facilities for foodgrains are adequate in the State of Gujarat and in other parts of the country;

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to construct/acquire more godowns in the country including the State of Gujarat; and